

TOP SECRET

Frank - Training Base

Zick

20-13

6 September 1949

MEMORANDUM FOR [ ]

1. Reference is made to London's offer of full facilities at Malta for the mounting of a reconnaissance in connection with Operation FIEND and to our acceptance of this offer which was orally conveyed to you recently and which is hereby confirmed. In this connection we desire to advance the following proposal for operations on and from Malta for London's consideration and comment.

2. We would regard Malta for our purposes as a training, dispatching (air and sea operations), communications, and to the extent necessary for reconnaissance purposes, a supply base.

a. From the training on Malta we would like to obtain 20 teams of 2 men each for infiltration into the northern and central areas of the target country by means of air drops, beach landings and, possibly, border crossings.

b. We would propose to equip these teams with radio communications equipment which would operate to an aircraft cruising overhead at necessary intervals. This raises the question of whether it will be feasible to base air operations (air drops and communications) on Malta involving three unmarked C-47 Type (Dakota) aircraft. If this is possible, we wish to inquire whether you can sell or lease such aircraft to us from your sources, together with air crews (possibly Poles) and maintenance, with the proviso that the entire cost of the aircraft, personnel, maintenance and operations, including the provision of communications equipment, will be defrayed by us.

c. We would appreciate your estimate, with reference to facilities at Malta and possible weather conditions in October and November, of the feasibility of seaborne infiltrations into the target country direct from Malta.

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
SOURCE/METHOD/EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2007

DOWN GRADE PER  
CLASSIFICATION REVIEW DIVISION  
FOR 006 SEP 53

copy #2 of 3 copies

31597

**TOP SECRET**

- 2 -

3. We believe that the commander on Malta should be a British officer and we would suggest that he have under him a British training deputy and an American operations deputy. In addition, we would like to introduce onto Malta an intelligence officer, a signals officer, a code clerk, possibly a communications maintenance man, and three language officers, for a total of eight American personnel. We would hope you could provide necessary housekeeping personnel in connection with our proposed increment, subject, of course, to appropriate reimbursement of costs.

a. We would appreciate your advice as to under what guise Americans can appear on Malta.

4. It is our present feeling that Malta would not be suitable as a joint operational headquarters. We would appreciate an indication of your views on this point. We tend to the view that Athens may be desirable in this connection but would appreciate any alternative suggestions you may have.

5. We would appreciate your views on the extent to which the cover story for Operation VALUABLE can or should be refined or extended for adaptation to the operations which we propose above. We will shortly transmit to you our own views in this connection.

6. We wish to request your urgent consideration of this proposal.

[ ]

**TOP SECRET**

Copy 223  
31597